Under the Tenth Plan scheme of Group Insurance for Powerloom workers, they can choose to pay Rs. 40/- every year to insure himself for a cover of Rs. 50,000/- on accidental death and upto P.s. 25,000/- for partial disability; with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and the Central Government contributing Rs. 100/- and Rs. 60/- respectively every year. Alternatively, he can choose to pay Rs. 130/- per annum to obtain an insurance cover of Rs. 80,000/- on accidental death, Rs. 50,000/- on natural death and a maximum of Rs. 50,000/- for permanent disability, with Central Government paying Rs. 150/- and LIC Rs. 100/-.

Major sops to textiles

2928. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give major sops to Textiles in the current year to give fillip to economy and generate employment, as reported in the Hindustan Times of 1st January, 2003; and

(b) if so, details of the proposed inputs that would be made to achieve the objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) A number of concessions have been announced in the Budget 2003-04 proposals to have a moderate fiscal duty structure; to complete the CENVAT chain; to encourage modernisation; to eliminate duty evasion, etc. Those concessions included reduction in excise duty rate across the board on almost all textile items, withdrawal of excise exemption on a number of items; completion of CENVAT chain; reduction in customs duty on textile machinery, etc.. Besides, 'Powerloom Package for Modernisation' of powerloom sector has also been announced.

Profitability of the textiles mills

2929. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI. Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Industry is suffering from low profitability; and